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NOTES

CORRECTION TO 1986 SPRING OCCURRENCE REPORT. The q and r for Dark-eyed Junco in Column 1 should be in Column 2, and the explanations in the text should likewise be moved.

THE DESOTO NWR EIDERS. The March 1986 issue (*NBR* 54:10) reported Eiders, probably King or Common, at DeSoto NWR, and that photographs were being circulated for confirmation of the species. There seems to be general agreement that one was a juvenile male King Eider (B. J. Rose photo). There was less agreement on the other (not shown), but with a tendency to call it a female King Eider.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION MIDWINTER EAGLE SURVEY. The 1986 survey total of 462 Bald Eagles is the second highest total reported for Nebraska, surpassed only by the 746 recorded during last year's unusually mild winter. Survey coverage and effort expended in 1986 were similar to

1985, except along the Missouri River. The 1986 figures for the Missouri River are from ground census, with all observations included in Nebraska's totals. The 1985 figures for the Missouri River are from aerial census, with all observations from South Sioux City to Omaha included in Nebraska's totals but only half of the observations along the South Dakota border reported in our totals.

Totals for 1980 through 1984 ranged from 388 to 453, with an average of 424 Bald Eagles reported. Age ratios have been relatively stable, ranging from 1:1.8 (Immatures:Adults) to 1:2.4 in all years except 1984. The ratio of 1:3.4 in January 1984 was probably the result of a high percentage of immatures migrating farther south than Nebraska in response to the harsh winter conditions. Another way of expressing the range in age ratios of 1:1.8 to 1:2.4 is to say that for every 100 adults observed, 55 to 41 juveniles have been observed.

-- Greg Wingfield, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission,
Route 4, Box 36, North Platte, Neb. 69101

The 1986 count, which was made at 52 sites, is summarized below. (River sites are stretches of the river.) 1985 survey results are given at NBR 53:40.

Location	No. of Sites	Bald Eagles			Golden Eagles		Total
		Adults	Im-matures	Unknown Age	Adults	Im-matures	
North Platte River	6	74	41	2	6	2	125
Platte River	9	110	50	9	2	1	172
South Platte River	1	1	-	-	1	1	3
Republican River	3	25	18	-	-	-	43
Middle Loup River	2	6	1	-	-	-	7
North Loup River	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Loup River	1	17	1	-	-	-	18
Snake River	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Niobrara River	5	27	5	-	1	2	35
Missouri River	2	37	4	-	-	-	41
Sioux Co.	3	1	-	-	3	1	5
Dawes Co.	2	-	1	-	4	-	5
Sheridan Co.	4	1	1	-	2	2	6
Cherry Co.	2	1	1	-	2	-	4
SB/Banner/Garden cos.	3	-	-	-	11	-	11
Dundy Co.	2	1	-	-	2	1	4
Chase Co.	2	4	3	-	2	1	10
Sutherland Reservoir	1	6	3	4	-	-	13
Strunk Reservoir	1	2	1	-	-	1	4
Furnas Co.	1	-	1	-	1	-	2
	52	316	131	15	37	12	511

JUNE NOTES FOR WESTERN NEBRASKA. Mark Brogie, Creighton, and I birded the western border of Nebraska in June 1986, trying to see some of the birds that breed out there. On 15 June we located a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes lewis*) in the Dead Horse Burn area of Chadron State Park. The pair was found in the same nest tree that Brogie had seen them in in 1985. We observed the pair copulating on a limb near a cavity in this tree. Soon after one of the pair entered the cavity. Sometime later, as we were leaving after observing Pinyon Jays, we saw a possible third Woodpecker on a fence post, approximately 300 m. from the site of the first pair.



Brogie photo

The same day we encountered a pair of Cassin's Kingbirds (*Tyrannus vociferans*) north of Hay Springs, on the road to Metcalf Wildlife Area, Sheridan

Co. One of the pair was perched, with fluffy material resembling animal fur, held in its beak. It soon flew off with the material, presumably to its job of nest building. This pair was at a site several miles south of a site on this road where Brogie had found a pair of Cassin's Kingbirds in May, 1986. An additional pair of the Kingbirds was found at Sowbelly Canyon, and a lone bird, presumably paired, was observed south of Gilbert-Baker campground, both localities north of Harrison, Sioux Co. Each of these birds was separated from the abundant Western Kingbirds (*T. verticalis*) by their white chins, olive green backs, dark brown tail without white edges, and coarser call notes. Each of these birds was found on the ends of narrow, finger-like projections of ponderosa pines into the surrounding prairie.



On 16 June, while birding Sowbelly Canyon, Brogie found a singing Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) in the transition zone between the ponderosa pines and the deciduous riparian woodland. While we watched its rather agitated behaviour we noticed a nest on a small elm, with an incubating female Solitary Vireo. As we photographed the nest without disturbing her, we discovered an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) nest with an incubating female, only a few feet from the Vireo nest.

In the ponderosa pine zone of Sowbelly Canyon Brogie played a recording of a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), trying to locate one he had seen on a previous trip. In a short time one responded and it was soon joined by a second bird. Both seemed to prefer the deciduous brush beneath the pines in a dry wash. Besides their diminutive song, the identification was based on the conspicuous eye ring, wider behind the eye, the dusky "vest" above a yellow belly, wing bars, and an orange lower mandible. The following morning, as Brogie was finding "his" Solitary Vireo, I located a second singing male Western Flycatcher on a pine-covered ridge just south of Coffee Park, within the canyon.

In the wide open short grass prairie west of Harrison we successfully searched for Brewer's Sparrows (*Spizella breweri*). Two separate individuals were seen, perched on the fence marking the Wyoming line. The second bird allowed the closer inspection, and exhibited an unstreaked breast; streaked crown, brown on gray, without light streaks; eye ring; and whisker.



The traditional Mountain Plover breeding grounds in Kimball Co., northwest of Bushnell, were searched for Plovers, without success. We expanded our search to pasture ground found a few miles to the north. Nesting McCown's (*Calcarius mccownii*) and Chestnut-collared Longspurs (*C. ornatus*) were the consolation for an unsuccessful search in hot, inhospitable surroundings.

--- Bill Huser, 319 W. 17th St., South Sioux City, Neb. 68776

MINDEN NOTES. I saw a Northern Harrier on 2 February 1986, and two Magpies 15 February, and a Prairie Falcon 27 February. During that period I also saw Red-tails and Kestrels, and an occasional Rough-leg and Ferruginous, and in March Swainson's Hawks. I saw small groups of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks on 2 February, Sandhill Cranes in the Platte valley 8 March, and three Killdeer 16 March. My brother, Elwin, observed a Short-eared Owl during the winter. On 6 April Mourning Doves were here, and on 20 April I saw a Snowy Egret. On 4 May I saw three or four Lark Buntings and a Great Blue Heron. On 29 June I found a Mourning Dove nest with two eggs; on 19 July I saw a young Killdeer learning to fly, and on 3 August I saw a young Upland Sandpiper, just learning to fly, with its parents. My cousin, Robert Spicknall, and I saw a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on 6

and 13 July. On 6 July Mr. Harvey Bell called my attention to an active nest of a Blue Grosbeak, with three young in it. On a hike 28 September I found Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, but failed to find the usual Great Blue Heron

--- *Harold Turner, P. O. Box 333, Minden, Neb. 68959*